USDA, SCS
SECTION II-E
Area 18

Alpine and Sanderson

LOAMY BOTTOMLAND
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Edwards Plateau

Location _____

Date March 1978

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as level to nearly level low terraces or flood plains that were formed in recent alluvium of streams, and rivers. Slopes are less than 1 percent. Elevations range from 2000 to 3000 feet.

2. SOILS:

   a. Soils of this site are deep alluvial loams, silt loams, and fine sandy loams. Available water capacity is high with a good plant-soil-water-air relationship.

   b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

      Gila loam

   c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

   a. The climax vegetation is dominated by short warm-season grasses, with mid grasses being frequent. This site also supports some climax forbs, and a large variety of woody shrubs and vines.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGES

Grasses	85%	Woody	10%	Forbs	5%
Cane bluestem Sideoats grama	20	Littleleaf sumac Butterflybush	3	Sweet gailordia Bushsunflower Verbena	3
Vine-mesquite Plains bristlegrass Bush muhly Arizona cottontop	20	Condalia sp. Acacia sp. Hackberry Soapberry	2	Globemallow Sunflower Golden crownbeard Western ragweed Other annuals	2
Sacaton Sand dropseed Tobosa	15	Tarbush Creosote	1		
Burrograss Buffalograss Per. threeawn	20	Whitebrush Fourwing saltbush	2		
Other grasses	10	Clematis Wolfberry Tasajillo	1		
		Other woody	1		

b. As retrogression occurs through overgrazing, mesquite, annuals, and condalia invade. Whitebrush, tarbush and creosote increase. Decreasers are sideoats grama, vine-mesquite, cane bluestem, blue grama, and Arizona cottontop. Other common invaders are broom snakeweed, red grama, nightshades, bitterweed and catclaw. Salt cedar invades heavily along stream banks.

c. In excellent condition, total annual herbage yield varies from approximately 600 pounds per acre in poor years to 1,100 pounds per acre in favorable years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by deer, dove, quail, javelina, and turkey.

5. ESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: In climax condition this site has a grassland appearance with a wide variety of woody species. When moisture is sufficient, numerous colorful forbs can be observed. In a deteriorated condition, site becomes brushy due to heavy infestation of woody plants.

6. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: Runoff from this site is slow due to level topography. If unprotected by a good grass cover, these moderately to moderately slowly permeable soils form a crust and runoff and soil erosion are increased.

7. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

Condition Class	Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/YrL	AU/Sec/YrL
Excellent	76-100	32-46	20-13
Good	51-75	40-80	16-8
Fair	26-50	58-100	11-6
Poor	0-25	100-213	Less than 6

b.

Seeded Areas	Percent Ground Cover			
	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-0
Mixtures Native (Ac/AU)	32-46	40-80	58=107	90+
Introduced species:				
Johnsongrass Ac/AU	30-45	35-75	55-85	75+
Blue panicum Ac/AU				

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Vine-mesquite	Tobosa	Burrograss
Cane bluestem	Sand dropseed	Annual grasses
Sideoats grama	Alkali sacaton	Clematis
Plains bristlegrass	Perennial threeawn	Whitebrush
Arizona cottontop	Buffalograss	Littleleaf sumac
Bushsunflower	Butterflybush	Wolfberry
	Globemallow	Golden crownbeard

b. Sheep

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Sweet gailordia	Cane bluestem	Tobosa
Bushsunflower	Vine-mesquite	Burrograss
Globemallow	Wolfberry	Threeawns
Verbena	Littleleaf sumac	Broom snakeweed
Butterflybush	Clematis	Bitterweed
Buffalograss	Hackberry	Croton
Sideoats grama	Fourwing saltbush	Whitebrush
Plains bristlegrass	Tarbush	Brickellbush

c. Goats

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Butterflybush	Cane bluestem	Tobosa
Fourwing saltbush	Vine-mesquite	Perennial threeawns
Hackberry	Wolfberry	Bitterweed
Littleaf sumac	Catclaw	Broom snakeweed
Bushsunflower	Persimmon	Burrograss
Verbena	Whitebrush	Creosote
Sweet gailordia		Brickellbush
Sideoats grama		
Buffalograss		

d. Deer

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Butterflybush	Catclaw	Tobosa
Fourwing saltbush	Persimmon	Perennial threeawn
Hackberry	Whitebrush	Bitterweed
Littleaf sumac	Globemallow	Tarbush
Bushsunflower	Clematis	Alkali sacaton
Verbena	Woldberry	Burrograss
Sweet gailordia	Buffalograss	Creosote
Mesquite beans	Plains bristlegrass	Brickellbush
	Sideoats grama	

e. Javelina

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Roots of perennial grasses and forbs	Perennial grasses	Most woody shrubs
Mast of most woody shrubs	Perennial forbs	Annual grasses
		Most annual forbs

f. Dove and Quail

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Croton	Sideoats grama	Tobosa
Ragweed	Bushsunflower	Burrograss
Plains bristlegrass	Sweet gailordia	Threeawn
Vine-mesquite		Most gramas
Verbena		Cane bluestem
Globemallow		Clematis
Mast of some woody shrubs		
Sunflower		
Annual forbs w/hard seed		

g. Turkey

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Seed of:	Seed of:	Fluffy seed of:
Tasajillo	Sideoats grama	Grasses
Croton	Bushsunflower	Forbs
Ragweed		
Sunflower		
Mast of woody shrubs		
Young green growth of grasses		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.